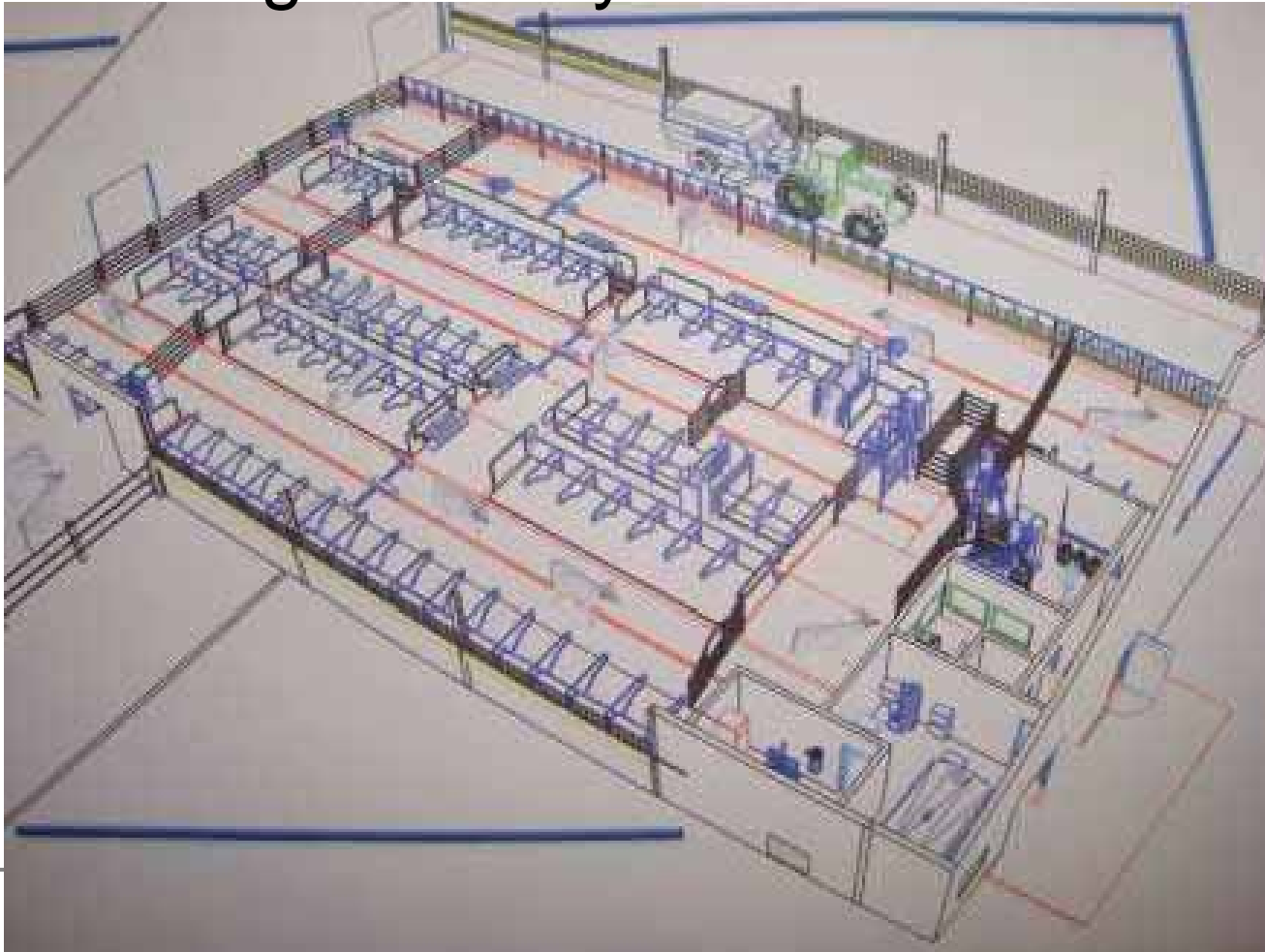

Robotic Milking: Could it work for you?

Tim Shepherd
PRO-DAIRY
Cornell University
Winter Dairy Management 2009



Robotic Milking

Do you have the desire to integrate a
New Management System?



A New Management System

More than a Milking System Change

- ❑ Robot and Barn Management
 - Cow Flow
 - Bedding
 - Manure
- ❑ Herd Management
 - Feed
 - Grouping
 - Special Needs
 - Training Employees and Cows
- ❑ Information Management



Integration into the Farmstead Master Plan

- Upgrade or Expansion
- Phase In/Out
- Retrofit or New Construction
- Satellite or Complimentary Facility



Milking Design:

Free vs. Forced Cow Traffic

- Free Flow
 - Access all areas of barn
- Forced Flow
 - Separates resting and feeding areas
- “Smart” Gates and Holding Areas
 - Allow many derivations of management style



Dealer Support Network

- A good working relationship is essential
 - Design
 - Installation
 - Start-up
 - Maintenance
- Dealers commonly direct milking design
- Farmers are integrating **FLEXIBLE** designs



Bottom Line

Many Questions Still Remain

- ❑ Ideal Management
- ❑ Applied Research
- ❑ Service Life
- ❑ Service Availability
- ❑ Future Labor Cost
- ❑ Future Labor Availability



Crunch the number conservatively and keep an eye on the horizon...
